

November and December, 2006. The *ad hoc* additional allocation is proposed to be continued till March, 2007.

Subsidies for wheat production

*354. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to offer liberal subsidies to the farmers in the country to substantially increase production of wheat during the ensuing rabi season; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Government of India has drawn up a special three-year plan for increasing the production and productivity of wheat in 138 identified districts. Under the plan, provision has been made to provide assistance for seed distribution, demonstration, micro-nutrients, improved farm implements and subsidy for diesel. The proposal is under consideration. However, 48,000 quintal of quality seeds of improved variety of wheat has been allocated to different wheat producing States to conduct field demonstrations, out of which 43,750 quintal seed has been supplied to the States.

Share of SSI in export

*355. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the share of small scale industries in export in comparison to the organized sector as on date;

(b) the details of contribution of small scale industries in creating employment opportunities and property in the country;

(c) whether any long term policy has been formulated for the development of small scale industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) As per the information received from various export promotion councils and other bodies concerned, the share of exports of the small scale industries (SSI) in the total exports of the country during 2004-05 (latest available) was 34.38 per cent.

(b) Based on the results of the Third All India Census of registered small scale industries (SSI) and sample survey of unregistered SSIs for the reference year of 2001-02, the persons employed and value of investment in plant and machinery in the SSI sector in the country as at the end of March, 2006 (latest available) are estimated to be 294.91 lakh and Rs. 1,81,423 crore respectively.

(c) and (d) The promotion and development of SSIs is primarily the responsibility of State Governments and Union Territory (UT) Administrations. To assist the States/UTs and supplement their efforts in this regard, the Central Government implements several schemes/programmes for promotion and development of SSIs. These include, *inter alia*, (i) facilitating availability of credit mainly through public sector banks/financial institutions, (ii) assistance for (1) technology upgradation, (2) obtaining ISO 9000/14001 certification, (3) marketing, (4) integrated infrastructural development, (5) comprehensive need-based development of clusters, etc., and (iii) entrepreneurship development.

Further, the Government has enacted the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 to facilitate the promotion and development of micro, small and medium enterprises and enhancement of their competitiveness. The Act has come into effect from 2 October, 2006.

Campaign against tobacco products

*356. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has appointed any expert committee to study the impact of new rules on anti-tobacco legislation and to insist on out sized logos on cigarette and bidi packets;

(b) whether Government have recently received representations from Virginia Tobacco Growers Associations protesting against such unilateral orders against tobacco products;